

Janet T. Mills
Governor

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Commissioner



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May 4, 2020

To: New Beginnings
Preble Street
Shaw House

RE: An Order Increasing Eligibility for Children's Homeless Shelters During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Good Morning,

[Emergency Order \(EO #47 FY 19/20\)](#) has been established suspending and modifying the limitations on homeless shelters for youth experiencing homelessness (see attached). As a result of this order, the rule that limits placement of youth in shelter for 30 days or less has been suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the rule that limits placement at the shelter to any youth under the age of 21 has also been changed to allow youth under the age of 22 to access the youth shelter during the COVID-19 Pandemic. DHHS rules are suspended and modified as it relates to these two items during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Presently, the shelters are required to provide weekly census data each Monday as it relates to the youth staying at the shelter. The following three items will be added effective 5/4/20 to this report to capture additional information related to the EO:

- The number of youth/young adults at the shelter over the age of 21;
- The number of youth/young adults who turned 21 while staying at the shelter; and
- The number of youth/young adults staying at the shelter for more than 30 consecutive days.

Thank you for all your efforts to support youth experiencing homelessness during this very challenging time. I know it is hard work and appreciate all that you do.

Be well and stay safe,

Alice Preble
Youth Prevention Services Coordinator
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